



## Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group

Date: Monday, March 9, 2020

Time: 6:45 - 9:00 PM

Location: Online, via Zoom

**Attendance:** Katell Guellac, Michaiah Healey, Rajeev Soneja, Brooks Harrellson, Miriam, Jen Huang, Danny van Leeuwen, Lynette Martyn, Chris DiMeo, Paula Jordan, Kelly Lynema, Louise Popkin, Robin Gottlieb, Elizabeth Dray, Megan Crowe-Rothstein.

### Minutes

1. Zoom protocols
2. Introductions and General well-being -check-ins:
  - Attendees shared how they are feeling and coping.
  - Acknowledging death of John Flood, building manager — we shared memories of John and a moment of silence in memory.
3. Resource sharing - share COVID-19 resource pages, FB group, town website
  - We will send out an email to the group with local resources.
4. Approve March minutes:
  - Chris moved to pass and Katell seconded. Minutes were approved.
5. Planning department discussion housing & economic development
  - Housing projects: Kelly said that two weeks ago the question campaign kicked off to address confusion among Arlington residents about housing and economic development. What would you ask to a developer or new business owner? Will help get a fuller sense. Submit to Arlington.ma.gov or by email or phone.
  - Also, Fair Housing Action Plan is still underway. The fair housing requirements have been set aside by HUD but Arlington continues to use them. The department's consultant will present at various local commissions, including disability, rainbow, and housing rights, on May 20 and 21. There also will be focus groups in early June.
  - Economic Bingo game to support small businesses. People can submit receipts for prizes.
  - Connect Arlington also is doing a survey.
  - Questions: How are you trying to reach out? Kelly responded about the challenges and asked for help from DTG to reach folks. Town notice only goes out to 6,000 of 19,000 households. Are you going through the schools? Kelly said they don't want to overload or send too many messages not related to COVID-19, but she will suggest. Louise offered help with interpretation as well as suggesting about wording questions. Census? Currently at 75% and please remind others because we won't have the same level of census workers. Lynette suggested mailers and sliding under doors for residents in public housing. Elizabeth suggested asking residents to opt in to Town emails

when they register kids for school. Michaiah asked how will the information be used? Kelly said they will be organized into topics. One thing the virus will teach us is that all forms of giving opinions are valid.

6. Election updates:

- Postcards will be coming soon to allow you to request a mailed ballot that must be returned by June 6. By mail, by drop boxes on two Saturdays in May, or in person at eight polling places. Anyone is permitted to have an absentee ballot. Lynette pointed out that there is a diverse group of people running this year. Michaiah reported that 14,000 people in Arlington aren't registered to vote.
- It is harder to reach people who don't have internet access. We need to think about other opportunities to reach people to register at common touch points in Town, e.g., signing your child up for school or getting a library card. Kelly pointed out that turnout is low for local elections, also that Town employees need to be safe with these processes.

7. DTG Intern, Maren & mass graves project update

- Brooks spoke about this year's intern, Maren, including a certificate and gift for her gap year. Mass grave project is on hold but she might be able to continue.

8. New Business

- Rajeev mentioned he attended the online True Story Theater event on May 9, Engaging with People Across Economic Differences. It was a very good event with 40 people in attendance. Also the HRC did an upstander training that was excellent.

Meeting notes taken by Katell Guellac